

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Claims 15-31 and 45-58 were previously canceled.

Please amend claims 1-3, 5-8, and 32-44 as shown herein.

Claims 1-14 and 32-44 are pending and are listed following:

1. (currently amended) A data communication system configured to communicatively link a host device and a client device with a point-to-point data communication link, the host device and the client device each configured for multipoint data communication over a distributed network, the data communication system comprising:

a remote data communication interface driver of the host device implemented in the client device, the remote data communication interface driver configured to communicatively link with a data communication interface of the host device via the point-to-point data communication link;

a virtual driver component configured to communicate with the remote data communication interface driver and the client device; and

a virtual network configured to communicatively link the remote data communication interface driver and the virtual driver component in the client device.

1 2. (**currently amended**) A data communication system as recited
2 in claim 1, wherein the remote data communication interface driver is a Remote
3 Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication
4 interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate with the
5 Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication link.

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7 3. (**currently amended**) A data communication system as recited
8 in claim 1, wherein the remote data communication interface driver is a Remote
9 Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication
10 interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate Remote NDIS
11 messages with the Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication
12 link.

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14 4. (**original**) A data communication system as recited in claim 1,
15 wherein the virtual network is a local area network.

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17 5. (**currently amended**) A data communication system as recited
18 in claim 1, wherein the remote data communication interface driver is a Remote
19 Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver configured to communicate
20 with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

1 6. (currently amended) A data communication system as recited
2 in claim 1, wherein the remote data communication interface driver is a Remote
3 Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver configured to communicate
4 Remote NDIS messages with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

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6 7. (currently amended) A data communication system as recited
7 in claim 1, wherein the remote data communication interface driver is a Remote
8 Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication
9 interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate with the
10 Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication link, and the
11 Remote NDIS driver is configured to communicate with the virtual driver
12 component via the virtual network.

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14 8. (currently amended) A data communication system as recited
15 in claim 1, wherein the remote data communication interface driver is a Remote
16 Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication
17 interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate Remote NDIS
18 messages with the Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication
19 link, and the Remote NDIS driver is configured to communicate the Remote NDIS
20 messages with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

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22 9. (original) A data communication system as recited in claim 1,
23 further comprising a connection interface configured to couple the point-to-point
24 data communication link with the client device.

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2 10. (original) A data communication system as recited in claim 1,
3 further comprising a Universal Serial Bus data communication interface
4 configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the client
5 device.

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7 11. (original) A data communication system as recited in claim 1,
8 further comprising a 1394 bus data communication interface configured to couple
9 the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

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11 12. (original) A data communication system as recited in claim 1,
12 further comprising a wireless data communication interface configured to couple
13 the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

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15 13. (original) A data communication system as recited in claim 1,
16 further comprising a Bluetooth data communication interface configured to couple
17 the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

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19 14. (original) A data communication system as recited in claim 1,
20 further comprising an infrared data communication interface configured to couple
21 the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

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23 15-31. (canceled)

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1 **32. (currently amended)** A method for implementing a
2 point-to-point data communication link between computing devices, the method
3 comprising:

4 **providing implementing a remote network communication component of a**
5 host computing device in a client computing device, the remote network
6 communication component designed for data communication over a distributed

7 network;

8 **providing implementing** a connection interface to couple the remote
9 network communication component with [[a]] the host computing device; and

10 **providing implementing** a virtual network to communicatively link the
11 remote network communication component and a virtual driver component of [[a]]
12 the client computing device.

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14 **33. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein
15 providing implementing the remote network communication component includes
16 providing implementing a data communication interface driver to
17 communicatively link with a data communication interface of the host computing
18 device via the point-to-point data communication link.

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20 **34. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein
21 providing implementing the remote network communication component includes
22 providing implementing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS)
23 driver to communicatively link with a Remote NDIS component of the host
24 computing device via the point-to-point data communication link.

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2 35. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein
3 providing implementing the remote network communication component includes
4 providing implementing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS)
5 driver to communicate Remote NDIS messages with a Remote NDIS component
6 of the host computing device via the point-to-point data communication link.
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8 36. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein
9 providing implementing the connection interface includes providing a
10 point-to-point data communication protocol interface.
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12 37. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein
13 providing implementing the connection interface includes providing a Universal
14 Serial Bus data communication interface.
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16 38. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein
17 providing implementing the connection interface includes providing a 1394 bus
18 data communication interface.
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20 39. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein
21 providing implementing the connection interface includes providing a wireless
22 data communication interface.
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1 **40. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein
2 providing implementing the connection interface includes providing a Bluetooth
3 data communication interface.

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5 **41. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein
6 providing implementing the connection interface includes providing an infrared
7 data communication interface.

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9 **42. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein
10 providing implementing the virtual network includes providing a virtual local area
11 network.

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13 **43. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein
14 providing implementing the remote network communication component includes
15 providing implementing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS)
16 driver, and wherein providing implementing the virtual network includes
17 providing a virtual local area network to communicate Remote NDIS messages
18 between the Remote NDIS driver and the virtual driver component.

1 **44. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein
2 **providing implementing the remote** network communication component includes
3 **providing implementing** a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS)
4 driver to communicate Remote NDIS messages with a Remote NDIS component
5 of the host computing device via the point-to-point data communication link, and
6 wherein **providing implementing** the virtual network includes **providing**
7 **implementing** a virtual local area network to communicate the Remote NDIS
8 messages between the Remote NDIS driver and the virtual driver component.

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10 **45-58. (canceled)**
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